AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-32 (canceled)

Claim 33. (new): An ink-jet recording apparatus comprising:

a recording head having a dot formation element array including a plurality of. dot. Formation elements arranged in a first direction; and

a platen operable to hold a recording medium in a position opposite to the recording head, the platen having a first hole formed in a substantially center area in the first direction of the platen, and which guides ink that has been discarded outside at least one of a leading end and a trailing end of the recording medium when data are recorded on the recording medium without leaving a margin on at least one of the leading end and the trailing end of the recording medium,

wherein the first hole has a size in the first direction which is less than an entire portion of the dot formation element array.

Claim 34. (new): The ink jet recording apparatus as set forth in claim 33, wherein:

the recording head is operable to selectively perform a standard interlaced recording operation in which all of the dot formation elements are driven, and a limited interlaced recording operation in which a part of the dot formation elements is driven; and

the limited interlaced recording operation is performed in a case where at least one of the leading end and the trailing end of the recording medium is situated above the first hole.

Claim 35. (new): An ink jet recording apparatus, comprising:

a recording head having a plurality of dot formation element arrays each including a plurality of dot formation elements arranged in a first direction and associated with one color of ink, the dot formation element arrays being arranged in the first direction; and

a platen for holding a recording medium in a position opposite the recording head, the platen having:

a plurality of first holes, each of which is formed in an area of the platen opposite a downstream portion of one of the dot formation element arrays with respect to the first direction, and which guides ink that has been discarded outside a leading end of the recording medium when data are recorded on the recording medium without leaving a margin on the leading end of the recording medium; and

a plurality of second holes, each of which is formed in an area of the platen opposite an upstream portion of one of the dot formation element arrays with respect to the first direction, and which guides ink that has been discarded outside a trailing end of the recording medium when data are recorded on the recording medium without leaving a margin on the trailing end of the recording medium.

Claim 36. (new): The ink jet recording apparatus as set forth in claim 35, wherein at least one of the second holes serves as one of the first holes.

Claim 37. (new): The ink jet recording apparatus as set forth in claim 35, wherein:

the recording head is operable to selectively perform a standard interlaced recording operation in which all of the dot formation elements are driven, and a limited interlaced recording operation in which a part of the dot formation elements is driven; and

the limited interlaced recording operation is performed in a case where the leading end of the recording medium is situated above one of the first holes, and in a case where the trailing end of the recording medium is situated above one of the second holes.